

THE SURVEY - PART 5

by Lynn & Buzz Rudow

This month we'll end our specific tabulation of the survey. That doesn't mean we're through with the concept. There's still lots of discussion that needs to occur as we decide what ideas to implement. The story continues with Question 9.

9. List areas that interest you to the point of investigation.

No Investigation	35%
Did Investigation	65%

The 65% who have done investigations had interests in the following areas:

Graphics	31%
Plotters	13%
I/O Devices	41%
Software	47%
Misc.. Hardware	53%
All Areas	9%

Sub-interests within the I/O devices category included disk access routines for both floppy and hard drives, reading and writing in other disk formats, external control of devices, operating system and communication peculiarities, home/industrial control systems and robotics.

Sub-interests within the software category included artificial intelligence, the C, Forth, and other programming languages, networking, software conversions from one operating system to another, public domain software, windowing, bulletin boards, and Vector Graphic BIOS hacking.

Sub-interests within the miscellaneous hardware category included hardware enhancements in general, the upgrading of Vector Graphics and generic S-100 systems, ram disks, CPUs, printers, hard disks, and ram expansions.

10. Would you like hardware reviews? What area or specific item?

No answer	45%
Don't want	2%
Do want	53%

The 53% who want hardware reviews had interests in the following areas:

S-100 Products	15%
RAM Disks	8%
Printers	15%
Modems	8%
Vector only	23%
Misc.. Hardware	46%

Sub-interests within the printers category included specific references to laser, letter-quality, and Memotype III-compatible printers.

The Vector-only category means that this set of people want hardware reviews, but only for items that are either Vector hardware, or compatible with Vector or Micropolis. Areas mentioned included the Flashwriter and Bitstreamer boards, the use of unused high memory areas (can you put RAM in ROM areas), and in general, upgrades to old equipment. Requests were made to include "how to" instructions, and to give reference to support people, organizations, or companies.

Miscellaneous hardware interests included plotters, buffers, terminals, I/O boards, new products and developments in peripherals, and putting a V20 chip on the S-100 bus.

11. Would you like software reviews? What area or specific item?

No	2%
No Answer	33%
Yes	65%

The 65% who are interested in software reviews have their interests sorted into the following areas:

Languages	16%
Public Domain	16%
Operating System	13%
Applications	53%

By languages, we mean Basic, Basic/z, C, etc.

Public Domain interests include getting ZCPR and ICEX running on the VG, and in general, installing and operating the free software.

Application interests covered the spectrum of spreadsheets, graphics, wordprocessors, accounting, data base managers, and utilities. Members wanted to know of new 8-bit software releases. If members have new software, comments and critical reviews should be sought.

12. What do you use your computer for?

No Answer	2%
Pleasure only	12%
Business only	43%
Business & Pleasure	43%

13. What services should a users group provide?

No Answer	27%
Did Answer	73%

The 73% having ideas about users group services had their suggestions broken down into the following areas:

Just what MUG does	11%
Public Domain S/W	19%
Parts	11%
Newsletter	8%
Member Lists	6%
Bulletin board	3%
For Sale Section	8%
Information Sharing	28%
Questions & Answers	19%
Applications S/W	6%
Miscellaneous	41%

Among the "Miscellaneous" suggestions are repair information, providing useful sub-routines and programming aids, telling things that aren't in the manuals, providing 8" to 5" disk transfers, notice of software bugs and hardware problems, and, in general, to provide support, and accumulate the know-how, for Micropolis and Vector Graphic owners.

14. What enhancements have been made to your system?

No Answer	41%
Made Enhancements	59%

The breakdown of the areas of enhancement of the 59% who have installed additional capabilities to their equipment is:

Hard Disk	28%
Modem	28%
RAM or ROM	45%
Clock	17%
RAM Disk	24%
Floppy Disk	31%
Other	55%

Items listed in the "other" category include a color graphics board, printer optimizer, laser jet printer, tape system, networking, enhanced Z80, real-time measurement control system, CCD camera, speech synthesizer, programmable character generator, creation of a non-hard-sectored system, and a battery driven system.

15. What services or activities do you use your modem for?

No Answer	55%
Did Answer	45%

The 45% answering the question were divided into the following categories:

Commercial DBs	50%
Proprietary DBs	27%
Public DBs	68%

The primary commercial data base was Compuserve, with the Source, Dow Jones, and Genie also being mentioned.

Proprietary data base transfers are being made to perform typesetting, real estate and lawyer investigation, and accessing the member's work computers.

The public data bases were almost all of the Remote C/PM (RCPM) variety. Viewing the bulletin boards and downloading programs were the main functions.

16. Are you currently considering moving from VG to IBM format?

No Answer	8%
No	37%
Yes	55%

17. Can you share your ideas concerning the problems of going from VG to IBM?

Fifty percent of the people who are moving from VG to IBM said that they would share their ideas and accomplishments with the group. Burks Smith reminded me that he already wrote an article (see the Oct. & Nov. 1984 newsletters), and would be willing to give more aid.

Scott Martin, of P.C. Supplies, 629 Belgian Dr., Bear DE 19701, said his company will provide this service to MUG members, in case you don't want to do the conversions yourself. I believe Al Brandli & Assoc. will also convert disks for you.

18. Do you belong to any other Users Group?

No Answer	55%
No	18%
Yes	27%

Groups mentioned by the 27% who said yes include those for Turbo Pascal, Visual 1050 Users, Heath Users, ACC New Jersey, Morrow Micro Decision Users, C, DUMPS, DECUS, MACMUG, several local CP/M, and the VG-Midwest Users Group.

19A What is your age?

The average age is 49. The oldest is 74, the youngest 29.

19B What is your occupation?

No Answer	2%
Engineers	25%
Teachers	12%
Retired	4%

Physicians	4%
Programmers	6%
Business Owners	10%
Consultants	4%
Miscellaneous	33%

Two-thirds of the teachers were professors. Businesses included computer dealers, quarrying, wholesalers, and, of all things, a massage parlor (I wonder if people realized that I was trying to be serious about this survey?). Miscellaneous occupations included those of pastor, transcriber, retail women's wear, realtor, church information officer, moldmaker, sales and service, product specialist, biochemistry research, telephone company manager, lawyer, USAF officer, optometrist, technical representative, writer, and purchasing agent.

NOW WHAT?

The MUG/VG group is already doing some of the things requested. A large part of the remaining problem is *partly* a lack of information, equipment, and software. More important, in my opinion, is the lack of a method which facilitates the finding of *existing* information, equipment, and software.

For instance, there are 75 back issues of the MUG newsletter, several users groups, several vendors, and many publications still in print. But if you want to know about area "X", how do you find it? Call someone? Maybe, though I probably wouldn't be able to answer your question unless I'd recently worked in that area.

What we seem to need is an interrogatable computerized data base; an "expert system" that can *speak* with you. Technically speaking, this isn't any fantasy. Given the cost and manpower requirements, however, gives me reason to doubt how in-depth we will be willing to pursue the concept.

The next best solution is a manual data base. We can develop a manual that leads us to answers. Where gaps exist, or logic fails, humans provide the expertise required to point a user in the direction of a solution to the problem.

The M/VGUG can aid in the creation, maintenance, and publication of the logic tree. We can create a *Owners Reference Manual*. This would let us know where to go to find the answers - what people, places, and publications. A great deal of the data must come from the members, however. That requires a bit more interaction from you than we've been getting in the recent past. Suppose, for instance, we publish a list of dealers. If you know of another dealer that isn't on our list, don't just sit back and say to yourself "Gee I know something that they don't". Spend the five minutes and 14 or 22 cents to mail me a note to tell us about it.

What sort of things can we accumulate information on

and categorize? How about DEALERS, [New, Used, Surplus, Repair, S/W]; M/VG INDEX; PERIPHERALS; PUBLICATIONS, [Magazines, Newsletters, Books]; REMOTE (phone) NETWORKS [Public, Commercial]; S-100 BOARDS; SOFTWARE, [CP/M, MDOS]; USER GROUPS.

Now it's your turn. Give me some more categories. Give me some information on these categories. If you know of dealers, boards, peripherals, or any information on any of the suggested categories, write me a note and share your knowledge. If all you know is a name and phone number, fine. If you have more detailed knowledge of the items, either from ads or from your experience, please include that information.

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LETTERS

ANOTHER VECTOR DEALER

I received an ad from WyBrite, Inc., 3839 Washington Avenue North, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55412-2195, phone (612) 588-7501. Mark Berndt is the contact. WyBrite is advertising the Canon LBP-A1 laser printer for the Vector. According to Mr. Berndt, the Canon prints at 8 pages per minute, and has the ability to use Memorite and its functions.

WyBrite also has used and refurbished System B's, V3/2600/3005s, V 5005/5010s, terminals, Vector 4s, VSXs and many letter quality and dot matrix printers. WyBrite gives a 30 day full parts & labor warranty.

Except for diskettes (starting at \$28.95/per box of 10), the ad had no other prices.

LOW COST DISKS

Buzz: PV Computer Center, P.O. Box C, Pleasant Valley, Iowa 52767, (319) 332-6229, has 16 hard-sectored 5 1/4 double density disks for \$20 for fifty disks. I don't know if these will work with all Micropolis/Vector drives, but I have used double density in mine.

Patrick M. King, 717 Barley Ridge Ct. S., St. Peters, MO 63376.

Patrick- Thanks for the info. I also use single-sided double density. I've had no particular problem, though the Micropolis drives accept them better than the Tandon. Sometimes the Tandon just won't format them without errors.

NETWORKING CP/M

I also received an ad from Doug Anderson, of Anderson Techno-Products. Doug can be written to at 947 Richmond Road, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2B 6R1, or spoken to at (613) 772-0690.

Doug is producing a "Poor Man's Network" for CP/M computers. Networking allows the sharing of resources between multiple computers. For example, you may sit at the console of one computer and access the data files of another computer, using your normal word processing or database program.

Poor Man's Network uses standard RS-232 (at 9600 baud, or higher) or parallel ports already existing on most machines (or can use RS-442 ports), and uses standard cables. There is no requirement for a hard disk, and no limitations on the number of disks, or types of disks. You may share floppies, hard disks, RAM disks, optical disks, etc., as well as printers and plotters.

The current limitations on Poor Man's Network are that, at present, only two computers are supported on the network, and both computers must be running CP/M 2.2.

The program is available in a pre-configured version for a number of computers, but not, of course, for the Vector Graphic. Doug says you can modify the supplied drivers on the 8" CP/M version, which are similar to those used in MODEM7. If anyone in the group has done the work, please let me know.

Poor Man's Network costs \$69. Telephone orders are accepted, as is MasterCard and Visa. Disk formats include 8" CP/M, Kaypro, Apple CP/M, and NorthStar.

Doug is still making enhancements to the program. This sounds interesting. Hope someone has the interest, time, and money to investigate the program. And if they do, I surely hope they let us know about their degree of success.

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DAMAN CLEARANCE SALE

The storing of software has gone on long enough. Either we move it, or I write it off and throw it out. I have a set of **LOW** prices for the remainder of the year. Before the end of December, I'll donate what's left to some school or charity, take my losses, and get it out of DAMAN's inventory.

The parentheses (x) show the number of items of each program in inventory. The prices listed are only for amounts in inventory. If the format reads "CP/M 8-inch" and you need Micropolis/Vector graphic, we'll down-load for \$5 extra per disk. While most programs are a single disk, some of the business software has three and four disks. Shipping is additional, but we'll wave the 3% charge-card fee for this sale.

GAMES

- (1) ANALIZA II, CP/M Micropolis/VG.
Analiza imitates a psychiatrist. The user (patient) interacts with the program in a question

and answer fashion.

List \$50, Sale \$10.

- (1) BALROG SAMPLER, MDOS (Basic).

List \$40, Sale \$10.

- (1) DEADLINE, CP/M 8".

A locked door. A dead man. And 12 hours to solve the murder.

List \$60, Sale \$15.

- (1) MILLIONAIRE, CP/M 8".

The Stock Market Simulation game.

List \$70, Sale \$20.

- (1) MORTON'S FORK, MDOS (Basic).

List \$40, Sale \$10.

- (1) ORBQUEST, CP/M 8".

An Adventure game.

List \$40, Sale \$10.

- (1) ORBQUEST, CP/M Micropolis/VG.

List \$40, Sale \$10

- (3) SUSPENDED, CP/M 8".

They said you would sleep for half a millenium - barring, of course, the most dire emergency.
Good Morning.

List \$60, Sale \$15.

- (1) WITNESS, CP/M 8".

Somebody's going to take the deep six! You've got a bird's-eye lowdown on the caper...and 12 hours to crack the case.

List \$60, Sale \$15.

- (1) ZORK II, CP/M 8.

The Wizard of Frobozz takes you to new depths of the subterranean realm. There you'll meet the Wizard, who will attempt to confound your quest with his capricious powers.

List \$50, Sale \$10.

BUSINESS

- (1) DATASTAR CP/M 8".

MicroPro's data entry program.

List \$295, Sale \$40.

- (1) DATEBOOK II CP/M Micropolis/VG.

Schedule and appointment management system.

List \$295, Sale \$40.

- (1) DATEBOOK II CP/M Apple

List \$295, Sale \$40.

- (1) DAYMASTER, CP/M 8", for VG.

Schedule and appointment management system.

List \$100, Sale \$30.

- (1) GRAMMATIK CP/M Apple II

Checks for common gramatical errors.

List \$75, Sale \$20.

- (3) INFOSTAR CP/M 8".

The MicroPro data base manager. Uses Word Star commands. A combination of Datastar, a forms generator, sort/merge program, and report generator.

List \$495, Sale \$90.

- (1) MILESTONE CP/M Micropolis/VG.

A project management resource scheduler.

List \$295, Sale \$40.

- (1) OPTIMIZER CP/M Micropolis/VG.

List \$200, Sale \$40.

- (2) **PROOF READER** CP/M Micropolis/VG.
A stand-alone spelling checker.
List \$50, Sale \$15.
- (1) **QUIC-N-EASI** CP/M Micropolis/VG.
A full fledged, but unknown data base manager.
List \$295, Sale \$40.
- (1) **ROUTEMASTER** CP/M Micropolis/VG.
List \$195, Sale \$30.
- (1) **SPELLGUARD** CP/M Micropolis/VG.
A stand-alone spelling checker.
List \$295, Sale \$40.
- (1) **SPELLMENU** CP/M Micropolis/VG.
List \$75, Sale \$20.
- (1) **SPELLSTAR** CP/M Micropolis/VG.
A companion spelling checker for Wordstar.
List \$245, Sale \$40.
- (1) **SUPERCALC-I** CP/M 8".
Spreadsheet.
List \$195, Sale \$50.
- (1) **VEDIT** CP/M 8". 8080/Z80.
A full screen text editor.
List \$140, Sale \$40.
- (1) **WORDMASTER** CP/M 8".
The text editor that preceeded Wordstar.
List \$145, Sale \$30.
- (1) **WORDMASTER** CP/M-86 8".
List \$145, Sale \$30.
- (1) **WORDSTAR** 3.0 customization notes, with 8" disk
List \$50, Sale \$15.

UTILITIES

- (1) **ACTIVE TRACE**, CP/M Micropolis/VG.
A set of utilities for MBasic/Basic-80 that create an alphabetized list of your variables and every line in which they occur, or a numerically ordered map of every line that is called, and which line(s) the call occurred in. Also contains a program that lets you see "inside" your program as line numbers and variable values change.
List \$125, Sale \$30.
- (1) **CACHE/Q**, CP/M 8".
Cache/q is a disk and print buffering enhancement for CP/M 2.2.
List \$225, Sale \$50.
- (2) **COMPRESS** CP/M Micropolis/VG.
A data compression program for CP/M.
List \$75, Sale \$15.
- (1) **DIAGNOSTICS II**, CP/M Micropolis/VG.
Contains programs to test your system's memory, CPU, disk drives, CRT terminal and printer. Also aids you in aligning disk drives.
List \$125, Sale \$30.
- (2) **FILEFIX** CP/M Micropolis/VG.
FILEFIX is menu-driven and has many uses. Recover erased files. Scroll or show textfiles one screenful at a time. Encrypt files with a one or two letter password. Copy, rename, or verify files. Dump files in both HEX and ASCII values.
List \$100, Sale \$30.
- (1) **FILEFIX** CP/M APPLE II
List \$100, Sale \$30.
- (1) **MCALL**, CP/M Micropolis/VG.

- Communications program.
List \$85, Sale \$20.
- (1) **MENU-POWER**, CP/M 8".
A User-Oriented, intelligent front end for CP/M.
List \$150, Sale \$30.
- (1) **MICRO LINK II** CP/M Micropolis for SOL.
Communications program.
List \$99, Sale \$30.
- (1) **MICRO LINK II** CP/M Apple
List \$99, Sale \$30.
- (1) **MICRO LINK II** CP/M VG at ports 6/7.
List \$99, Sale \$30.
- (1) **MICRO LINK** MDOS VG at ports 4/5.
List \$99, Sale \$30.
- (1) **MICRO LINK** MDOS VG at ports 6/7.
List \$99, Sale \$30.
- (1) **MITE** CP/M Vector
Communications program.
List \$165, Sale \$40.
- (1) **MOVE-IT** CP/M Apple
Communications program.
List \$125, Sale \$30.
- (2) **UTILITIES-1**, CP/M Micropolis/VG.
Utility pack #1 is a collection of routines that search, compare, remove duplicate lines, erase, archive, perform checksums, count words and lines, and sort.
List \$60, Sale \$15.
- (4) **UTILITIES-2**, CP/M Micropolis/VG.
Utility pack #2 is a collection of routines that translate characters, replace one string with another string, act as a desk calculator, compare source files for differences, print multi-column, concatenate files, and split files.
List \$60, Sale \$15.

LANGUAGES

- (1) **ACT-80** CP/M Micropolis/VG, Version 3.5.
An 8080 assembler by Sorcim.
List \$190, Sale \$30.
- (1) **CBASIC** CP/M 8", Version 2.8.
List \$150, Sale \$40.
- (1) **NEVADA PILOT** CP/M Micropolis/VG.
List \$40, Sale \$10.
- (1) **NEVADA EDIT** CP/M Micropolis/VG.
List \$40, Sale \$10.
- (1) **TINY PASCAL**, CP/M 8".
Tiny Pascal has source code provided for the entire compiler and runtime library.
List \$85, Sale \$30.
- (2) **TINY PASCAL**, Micropolis/VG.
List \$85, Sale \$30.

PARTS

- (12) **SHAW LABS**
Kit for Micropolis Controller Board.
Contains the instructions and parts necessary to add motor control and phantoming to the Micropolis controller.
List \$20, Sale \$5.

NOTICE TO DEALERS

As a service to its members, the MUG newsletter will include, in fact solicits, commercial advertisements relevant to members' needs. Any dealer, vendor, or service organization wanting to advertise must provide sufficient full or double page material, or must reimburse the MUG for reproduction of a single master.

CLASSIFIED

The Classified Section of the MUG Newsletter is available to all users, free of charge. Just call or write us with a description of what hardware, software, information, etc., that you want to obtain, or dispose of.

FOR SALE - Intel Microscope 820 portable In-Circuit Microprocessor Emulator, full manuals, all accessories, and probes for 8080A and 8085. \$450.

Chuck Gollnick, Gollnick Digital Logic, P.O. Box 1363 Welch, Ames IA 50010. Phone (515) 232-4595 evenings.

EPROMS BURNED - I've got a Vector 3005 that can burn most popular EPROMS, and even some single chip MCUs. Reasonable rates.

Chuck Gollnick, Gollnick Digital Logic, P.O. Box 1363 Welch, Ames IA 50010. Phone (515) 232-4595 evenings.

MICROPOLIS/VECTOR GRAPHIC USERS GROUP NEWSLETTER

Published monthly by DAMAN, 604 Springwood Circle, Huntsville AL 35803-1740. Subscription rates: North America; \$18/year. Elsewhere; \$25/year, airmailed.

For assistance with general information, MUG/Vector Graphic, Micropolis drives & parts, call Lynn at (205) 881-1697 during the Central Times of 9AM to 5PM. Buzz is sometimes around in the evening (Lynn will know) and from 9-12 on Saturday.

MICROPOLIS/VECTOR GRAPHIC
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(205) 881-1697



POSTMASTER: ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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